
Natural Rearing Newsletter ©

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FOR BREEDERS THAT CHOOSE TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES

From The Desk Of: MARINA ZACHARIAS

For several years now I have been urging people to be very cautious about the quality of herbs and herbal products that they use. Why ? Here is some insight into the American herbal industry that should make you think twice about what we do to mother nature's' bounty.

HERBS FOR HEALTH OR PROFIT ?

The herbal 'business' is one of the fastest growing industries in the U.S.A. Even the Mega-Giants such as General Foods, Quaker Oats, etc., are recognizing that the "health food" wave is more than just a passing fad. This hefty increase in demand must be a windfall for the American farmer, right ? Wrong !!

The vast majority of herbs that American companies are using and selling do not come from within the U.S. Most (some estimates range over 95%) are imported from Eastern Europe, India, China, Mexico, and many third-world countries.

So what's wrong with that ? The pollution in these countries is unbelievable ! Aside from the heavy use of DDT and other noxious pesticides in widespread areas, you have such lovely things as rivers polluted with medical and chemical wastes, areas where human feces are used to fertilize the fields where they grow herbs, and of course little things like radiation overload left over from Chernobyl !! Many of the herbs imported from China and India have been found to be loaded with E. coli bacteria.

Is it any wonder then, that Federal law requires fumigation and irradiation of bulk herbs to get rid of bacterial contamination ? Thus we end up with herbs that may not only be toxic, but are also sprayed with antibiotics. (As for 'irradiation' treatment, I'll tell you more about that in the future). To get the full picture

of this you need to grasp the size of this operation. Huge 'bales' of herbs are literally soaked down with a fire hose, spewing out gallons of antibiotics over a large area. Just ask anyone working on the large docks in California how these shipments are handled.

Of the herbs that come into the U.S. there are only three major import companies that control almost all of them. Thus, although there are many secondary 'suppliers' of "bulk" herbs and many manufacturers of herbal products,--the sources are all the same !!

It would be a miracle for you to end up with any of these herbs that could be considered good quality. We haven't even begun to talk about what the manufacturers do with the herbs. We're just talking about the herbs they bring in.

Why would major companies with a reputation to protect even consider using this stuff ? The answer is price ! Wild crafted or organically grown local herbs cost about ten to twenty times the cost of the imported material. That, plus the fact that quality herbs are just not available in the quantities needed and at all times, as required, by the commercial giants. You can't really expect them to hold up the manufacturing process while waiting for the herb to bloom or ripen to its peak.

Without doing a chemical analysis of each product, is there any way we can tell if a product may be potent or garbage ?

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A simple way to detect herb activity in a product is to look for the "signature" of the herb it is supposed to contain. By that I mean look for the smell, taste, color, etc. normally associated with a particular herb. If it says 'garlic', it should smell like garlic. Bitter herbs (like golden seal) should taste bitter. Cayenne is hot. Echinacea tingles in your mouth. And so on.

Unfortunately, some companies may list a formula with 30 or 40 herbs on the label where there is only one herb making up 99% of the product and only 1 % of the other herbs. In the industry they call this 'fairy dust'. You'd get just as much out of it if you just yelled the name of the herb at the bottle.

Other companies "improve" the herb by 'deodorizing' it or 'sweetening' it to make the product more palatable. **When you remove the chemical constituent of an herb that provides its primary "signature"--you destroy the usefulness of the herb !!**

Juliette de Bairacli Levy has provided us with a reliable roadmap for herbal use with our animals. Her wonderful book "The Complete Herbal Handbook for the Dog and Cat" gives us proven methods of disease prevention and cure (even for such things as Distemper and Parvo). They do work if the herbs are decent quality. Don't expect the same miracles from sawdust.

Don't be misled by the heavily promoted herbal 'extracts' or 'tinctures' that are supposedly "more powerful" or "high potency" versions using the same stuff as their base.

Traditional methods of making an herbal tincture require a minimum of fourteen days (with the lunar cycle--from the new moon to the full moon). Most of the tinctures on the market today are made in anywhere from 8 hours to 3 days. A few of the 'fast buck' boys pack herbs into cones and just pour alcohol through them !!

Tinctures are usually preferable to tea, because tinctures last indefinitely. Also, Tinctures enter your system in seconds as compared with dry herbs in capsules which have to be digested first.

Actually, making your own tinctures is relatively simple and can be fun. Needless to say, you need to start out with good quality herbs. Growing your own does give you the advantage of complete control of not only soil conditions but also the proper timing for harvesting. There are many good books on this subject available at health food stores or check your local library.

If you are not inclined to put in the extra effort to grow your own, you can get certified organically-grown or wild crafted herbs from several suppliers (yes, Charlie--they are expensive).

Get your herbs and place them in a wide mouth glass jar. Either make separate tinctures, or assemble a formula and place it in the jar. Now cover the herbs with 80 to 100 proof vodka (Smiranoff seems to have the least perfume taste), just enough so that they are submerged. Cover and shake several times a day. Try to start the tincture on the new moon, and wait at least 14 days (longer is preferred). If you have the patience, you can leave them in for two to three months.

When you are ready, press out the soaked herbs through cheesecloth into a bowl. You can then use dark glass jars to store your tinctures in. Otherwise light will deteriorate the tinctures. If you can't find dark jars, you can wrap paper around clear glass for protection from light.

Don't be afraid to fresh grind your herbs. You can buy an inexpensive little coffee grinder that will do the job for everything but the very hard roots.

If you really want high potency, take the liquid from your first batch, put fresh herbs in the tincture and make a double strength batch.

If you prefer to stay away from any alcohol mixtures, Juliette does give us her method of preparing an "infusion" of herbs for administering to animals. These are only good for two or three days at a time, but do provide a 'liquid' form of herbs that is both effective and easily digested by dogs and cats.

Take one large handful of fresh herb (or two heaped tablespoons dry herb), cut up small if the herb has large leaves, and mix with a pint of cold water. Cover well (keep tightly lidded to prevent escape of steam and volatile properties of herbs), then simmer until near the boiling point. Do not boil. Remove from the heat and let stand for four hours. Do not strain. Pour into clean jar (dark or covered with paper).

It is interesting to note that her method of preparing a concentrated extract calls for raw milk or carrot juice as an extracting medium rather than alcohol. Do read her book. It's packed with useful information that has stood the test of time.

From the foregoing I hope you will have a better understanding when you read about some of the "miracle" cures of herbal medicine and then read that in such and such a test the same results were not obtained. I leave it up to you to try to determine what quality of herbs were used in each case.



Book Review--TRAVELER'S JOY

by Juliette de Bairacli Levy

In today's world it's not often that we are given the opportunity to be whisked away from everyday trials and tribulations while being entertained and educated at the same time!!

Of all Juliette's books (and she has written many) this one is a pure delight to read. I'm so happy it is finally back in print. Treat yourself. Read it.

I am constantly being asked "where can I learn more about natural ways of doing things?" Let me tease you just a little by taking a few excerpts from "Travelers Joy" that sets the flavor of the book.

- * I began my nomad travels in the late nineteen thirties, not long after I had left a northern England university where I had been a veterinary medicine student. There I had seen animals dying as they had died in my own home, and had realized that orthodox medicine could not save them. I began to think about the healing powers of herbs, and read all that I could find concerning herbs, in the university libraries. There was very little information and I wanted to go in search of more. When spring came to that university town I knew that in the countryside larks and peewits would be flying over the flowering fields, and the medicinal herbs would be unfolding. I decided to become a modern "Scholar Gypsy" and leave the Oxford college for study in the field.
- * This sort of living, the traveler's life, has a fascination, and I can well understand the Scholar Gypsy choosing his life pattern and way of study, and having known it wanting no other. This learning from the earth and from the people who work the earth or travel it, is of endless discovery and interest, and is like making a collection of beautiful things of many kinds. I found more than the herbal knowledge which I sought, from the nomad people. I hope I also learned their simple laws of honesty and morality, and health and hardiness, and how to live without much dependency of shops, to live rough and to be happy every day of primitive living.
- * As I went to and fro across a rapidly changing world, my travels began to acquire a feeling of **urgency**. This unquiet and troubled feeling was caused by a desire to know the beautiful places of the earth before mechanized modern progress spoiled them. To know all possible kinds of wild animals, birds, reptiles, plants and trees, before modern chemical poisons on earth and in water, land developments, or traps and guns wiped them out totally. Oh! My beloved animals!

And travel she did!! From around the world she tapped into sources of information largely unknown or ignored by the 'modern' world. Much of the knowledge gained had never been published in books of any kind before, but had been passed on from generations of people who 'lived' by the practical application of working in harmony with nature. These people chose not to throw away a couple of thousand years of practical experience in favor of a few decades of 'scientific wisdom'. Be thankful that Juliette has preserved most of this bounty in her books.

Seldom did she travel alone in her quest for knowledge. Usually she was accompanied by her Afghan hounds, sometimes she also had goats, owls, hawks, and jokingly says "it's a good thing that my hives of bees were not moveable".

Throughout her travels and to this day she **never allowed herself or her animals to be vaccinated!!** How is this possible with all the rules and regulations that abound in various countries??

- * A word about vaccination. The injecting of sera from artificially diseased laboratory animals into the human body, to many travelers is a crime, a truly criminal act! Many regions of the world forbid this Pasteur-inspired health hazard and folly! Article 83 of the International Sanitary Regulations is a salvation for health-minded and/or religious travelers.
- * Quote: "No one can be vaccinated against his or her will, nor be quarantined, if he has not visited a quarantine area."
- * However, it is advisable when not vaccinated to carry a medical certificate of recent date, stating: "Vaccination would be injurious to the health of my patient (name and address). I confirm that my patient is in excellent health, does not suffer from any form of disease and has not been in contact with any contagious ailment. (Signed---, M.D.)"

Where there's a will there's a way and this lady has plenty of will !!

Don't expect tips on which hotels to stay at, which airlines offer the best price, or what tours to take to 'really see the country'. Do expect to be surprised and often amused at the simplicity and elegant solutions offered to some everyday problems that the 'civilized' world seems unable to cope with.

A small example:

- * Ticks. As these mean parasites bury their heads into the skin, they cannot be removed or killed by bathing the skin. I found a way to make them loosen their hold immediately: sprinkle them with powdered ginger. They come off at once!

Where necessary she provides detailed instructions on how to make and apply herbal preparations for medicinal purposes. For example her instructions on her 'insect repellent' formulation are very explicit. Is it really effective? Evidently, the Israeli troops involved in the Six Day War in 1970 were delighted with the protection it gave them. Is it safe? To quote Juliette "This herbal repellent acts entirely on the principle of deep skin penetration and intense bitterness. No biting insect wants to taste such unpleasant bitterness. Otherwise it has quite a pleasant aroma and is so deeply cleansing when applied to the skin, and so highly tonic, that many women use it as a facial treatment instead of the purpose for which it is intended." (Sorry, I simply don't have room to quote about four pages from her book with all the details.)

The book is not only about herbal remedies. It is filled with tidbits of natural methods of dealing with pests and annoying problems around the house. For example, how to get rid of flies in the house using just a towel. The best bait to use for rat traps (peanut butter on bread). How to deal with moths, earwigs, fleas, even scorpions and snakes.

She brings new meaning (or perhaps I should say reminds us of old meaning) to the simple elements of fire and weather.

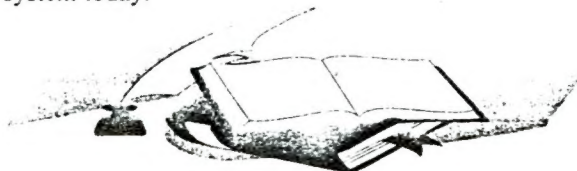
Her chapter about food should remind all of us that there are other ways of enjoying this life giving sustenance without going to a fancy restaurant.

If you ask most people to-day if they like to travel, generally they will answer yes. I readily admit to my love for this. After reading this book I freely confess that not even in my wildest dreams had I ever thought of what it means to be a true "traveler".

In her own unique style Juliette sums it up in the opening of her last chapter 'About The Traveler'.

* For a large number of travelers a visit to a new country is merely a name stamped on their passports. They almost completely pass by the inner life of a country new to them, its beliefs and its dreams. Every land has its own special rhythm, and unless the traveler takes the trouble to learn the rhythm, he or she will remain an outsider there always.

I also freely confess that I am a great fan of Juliette's and over many years have come to the conclusion that in many ways her teachings are more valuable than anything being offered in our school system today.



TO FLEA OR NOT TO FLEA ??

Good Grief !! What are they going to come up with next.

Ciby-Geigy has launched a massive promotional campaign on a new "flea control" pill that they call "Program". Now you don't have to bother spraying poison on your carpets anymore, just pop a poison pill into your animal once a month and the animal will deliver the poison from its own blood directly to the flea !!

If I had to give an award to the "stupidest" product of the month, this one would win hands down.

Just how is it supposed to work ? The pill contains a chemical called LUFENURON that prevents flea eggs from hatching or larvae from developing. So hopefully, after every flea in the house has taken a good bite out of your animal, ingested the poisoned blood, and laid infertile eggs--you've "broken the cycle" and no more flea problem. (No Charlie, it's not a repellent. If your animal has a flea allergy, she will still have to suffer the bite so that the product can work.)

Of course, as long as you continue to administer the pill, any new fleas from the outside would meet with the same fate. So once a month (forever) just give her a new dose and keep her in shape to continually deliver poison through her blood stream to prevent flea infestation.

Ciby-Geigy states in its' brochure that "PROGRAM" is well accepted and can be given to young, old and **pregnant** animals. In the product test literature it is reported that PROGRAM was given to nine beagles at 90x the recommended dose. Only six of the nine conceived. This is a conception rate of 67%!! In the same test eight beagles not on "PROGRAM" were bred and 100% conceived.

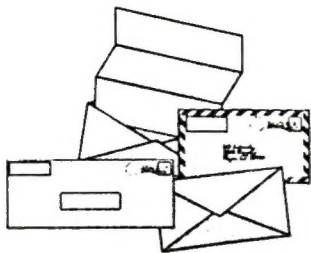
So how can they claim it is safe ? Evidently the product has not killed any animals and therefore is deemed "safe" !!

Carol Scott Bardwick (Canine Cryobank, Inc.), a well known reproduction specialist, has issued a 'warning' bulletin on this product and its effects on both male and female reproductive problems.

You should also be aware that puppies born to dams on the drug on the 90x study, had nasal discharge, respiratory congestion, dehydration/diarrhea, lethargy--(sounds almost like Parvo, doesn't it)--conditions which improved after the pups were weaned. Evidently the drug 'lufenuron' concentrates in the dam's milk SIXTY TIMES more than in the dam's blood !!

(4) This is one program you do not want to join !!!

MAILBOX



Dateline May 27, 1995--Keiley Abbat
56 Fenwick Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4K-3H3

Dear Marina:

I am writing in response to your follow-up in the May issue on Heartworm medication. I am enclosing a formula that I use (and which prevents 100%) biting insects/parasites from alighting altogether. It is effective against mosquitoes, black flies, horse and deer flies, and fleas, by making the coat/skin totally unattractive to these parasites, yet does not smell offensive to us. (In fact, it is quite pleasant!) I test my dogs annually for heartworm, but refuse to "medicate" them "just in case", I refuse to submit my animals to conventional worming medications of any sort, preferring to use preventative methods rather than curative. On occasion, when I have had puppies that come to me with intestinal worms, I have alleviated the problem with "Chinese Herbal Antiparasite Formula", pure diatomaceous earth and garlic in the diet. As far as parasites are concerned, such as fleas, my animals have never succumbed to infestation, which I attribute to their high quality, homemade diet.

To get back on topic (Heartworm)... I realize that I am lucky to live in a 'Northern' climate where mosquitoes are only a problem for a few short months of the year. However, when they do come alive, they come alive with a vengeance!! I live in downtown Toronto, a major metropolis, and these bugs are a problem, but not an infestation during the summer months. I do, however, have a cottage some 200 KM north that my family (dogs included) frequent during these months and boy can I tell you...mosquitoes thrive up there!!! With this formula, which is applied to human and animal alike, we can be out and after dusk and not get a single bite! I would like to share it with your readers because I realize that Heartworm is a devastating problem, and if I can provide info that would aid anyone I would be thrilled to do so. The formula is as follows:

In a spray bottle, combine:
1 cup "Avon Skin-So-Soft" bath oil
1 cup water
1 Teaspoon Eucalyptus oil
2-3 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar

Mix thoroughly & spray on people, animals, holes on screens, or anything you don't want biting bugs to land on (carpets, inside vehicles...you name it!)

This formula does not kill the bugs, but makes whatever is covered by it highly distasteful to them.

I can vouch that it works! Originally, I was given this formula by an allopathic nurse at Toronto's 'Hospital for Sick Children', when I inquired about taking my then 2-week-old daughter to the cottage in high mosquito season, and did not want to submit her to pesticide laden mosquito sprays. Since then (5 years ago) I have heard variations of this same formula from Nat'l. Park Rangers, and it is even give in Mary Brennan's book "The Natural Dog".

In giving this for you to share, I would hope that your readership would gain insight and knowledge on how to prevent the mosquito (and all other insects) bite, rather than having to worry about the transmission of the dreaded Heartworm egg.

I hope you will print this in future newsletters and even though the only ingredient if the formula that is questionable may be "Avon's Skin-So-Soft", I have had no problems with it myself, even though my animals have licked themselves when they have had it on. I trust this formula for my dogs, my human family, and my other animals and swear by it as an alternative to devastating "preventative" Heartworm medication for my dogs and cats, as well as "devastating" insecticide sprays allotted for human use during biting-insect season.

I hope this helps. Yours in health, naturally,
Keiley Abbat

Thanks Keiley. Your formula (and some variations) has been around for some time now. The only complaint I have ever heard about it, is that it does tend to make some dogs coats greasy (not so good if you are going into the show ring). However, when you think about a few ounces of prevention being worth a ton of cure for heartworm, I fully agree that Skin-So-Soft formulas are worth thinking about as an effective and relatively harmless tool. As a "repellent" it certainly sound like it does the job. I would also suggest you read "Travelers Joy" by J. Jevy (see article) for several other insect "repellent" ideas.

Dateline March 6, 1995
Rebeca Hunt, Portland, Oregon

Dear Marina:

I have never been a person who puts false hope in gimmicks, neither have I been a person who experiments with "medicines" or treatments unless I know for a fact what the outcome will be. I was somewhat skeptical prior to using your NR seaweed supplement, as I knew I would be, but the outcome was truly remarkable. My Chow Chow bitch had a pink spot on her tongue about the size of a pencil eraser, and after using your product for just two weeks the spot was almost totally gone. After two more weeks her tongue was "black" than it had ever been, with no more pink spot at all. It was always very dark, more black than purple, but after the seaweed mineral food, it remains true black even on those days when the temperature is sweltering or in times of stress.

I have since been an advocate for your product, having recommended it to people in Oregon, Washington and Arizona. Your following is definitely growing by leaps and bounds, due solely to the fact that this is no gimmick, but hard honest fact!! As you told me on the phone, it will not perform miracles, but it will definitely improve what is already there.

Thank you so much for your wonderful products!!

Thanks Rebecca. I can't really take credit for this great product (other than making it available for all of us). This is just another example of the wonderful formulas passed on to us from Juliette de Bairacli Levy. I don't think there is anyone in the world that would dispute the fact that she is truly the most outstanding animal herbalist of this century. All of her NR products work exactly like she says they do in her books. No gimmicks. In ten years of using the NR line of herbal products, I have never been disappointed with the results achieved from following her methods.



(6)

VACCINATIONS--PART 2

Since early childhood, we have all been brought up with firm beliefs in the practice of vaccination. Parents, teachers, doctors, leaders in the community--all have assured us that:

- 1. Vaccinations are relatively harmless
- 2. Vaccinations are effective
- 3. Vaccinations were primarily responsible for the decline in infectious diseases
- 4. Vaccinations are the only practical and dependable way to prevent both epidemics and potentially dangerous diseases.

To even suggest that any of these accepted "facts" should be questioned is to invite ridicule and scorn from the vast majority who "know" better. Even our law makers hold these to be self evident "truths". So who are we, to cast doubt on established dogma ?

For those who are willing to make the effort to ask the right questions AND not be afraid to look at the answers, there is a vast body of work (many pounds of paper) that provides valid reasons to be concerned with this 'man made' attempt at immunization. Although there is more knowledge concerning humans and vaccination problems, there is also a growing amount of evidence that present veterinarian protocols are also questionable.

But wait a minute. Is it really serious enough to spend the time looking into it?? I mean if a few million animals are vaccinated every year and one or two show some kind of adverse reaction, is that all we're talking about? Is that what all the fuss is about??

Oh, if that were only true!! I don't believe there are any accurate statistics available on the annual number of DEATHS directly attributable to vaccination or the number of diseases contracted from vaccination or the number of "side effect" problems caused by vaccination!!

As some vets vehemently deny any association with vaccine related problems, it is most unlikely that we will ever have a true picture of the extent of the damage caused. There is no obligation for anyone to 'report' cases and no 'body' to report them too, other than the vaccine companies.

Others recognize that within the journals of veterinarian medicine, many cautionary articles and studies have been published--not for general public distribution.

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It takes very little effort to learn that the first two concepts we have been taught are not only open to question, but 'just ain't true'. Vaccinations are not relatively harmless and under a variety of conditions are not always effective !! Your first clue to this can be found by simply reading the inserts found with the vaccine. Warnings and cautions are there for a good reason. This is why most "pet" owners never see them. Their vet doesn't want them 'unduly' alarmed.

The immune system of a healthy animal is capable of handling the invasion of a single infectious disease. It was never intended to cope with the onslaught of multiple disease exposure. In nature it just doesn't happen that way. Common sense should tell you that when you hit an animal with a combination of several "modified live" infections at one time, while bypassing the non-specific immune system, chances are pretty good that something in the body is going to say "Whoa--what's going on here ??". Combine this with the latest adjuvant (Adjuvant--a substance that, when used in combination with an antigen, enhances levels of immunity beyond those developed with the virus or bacteria alone), a variety of preservatives and carrying agents, and you end up with a witches brew that makes you shudder just to think about it. Yet that's what I want you to do. Think about it!! Is it really a surprise that the body can be overwhelmed when subjected to this kind of "health care" ??

To make matters worse, conventional wisdom tells us that the best thing we can do for our animals is to **REPEAT THE PROCEDURE** on a regular basis. All of us at one time or another have received that nice little letter from a veterinarian reminding us that "Fluffy" is due for her annual booster.

THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR ANNUAL VACCINATION !!!

Yes, I'm shouting at you. I only hope you will start shouting this fact at others you know. For our animals sake, spread the word as far and as fast as you can !!

There are several good references to this fact. The clearest one I have been able to find comes from an article titled "Canine and Feline Vaccines" by Tom R. Phillips, DVM and Ronald D. Schultz, DVM appearing in "Current Veterinary Therapy", Volume XI, pp202-206. Allow me to take an excerpt of their comments concerning "Annual Vaccinations" (bold emphasis are mine):

⇒ "A practice that was started many years ago and that lacks scientific validity or verification is annual revaccinations. Almost without exception there is no immunologic requirement for annual (7)

revaccinations. **Immunity to viruses persists for years or for the life of the animal."**

- ⇒ "Furthermore, revaccination with most viral vaccines fails to stimulate an anamnestic (secondary) response as a result of interference by existing antibodies"
- ⇒ "The practice of annual vaccination in our opinion should be considered of questionable efficacy **unless it is used as a mechanism to provide annual physical examination or is required by law."**

I guess what bothers me most is the number and frequency of breeders that have told me about the death of their animals caused by vaccination. Some of these have been verified through laboratory testing, but in the majority of cases they are anecdotal evidence only. Too often the reason given for the death was "unknown" and vaccination was dismissed as simple coincidence. Recent vaccinosis cases I have been told about range from full blown Distemper to an agonizingly painful death from a Rabies shot.

When a pharmaceutical drug causes death, it is pulled from the market. This is not the case with vaccines. A certain number of deaths are not only accepted, they are expected !!

The cliché on this one is that the "benefits outweigh the risks". No one seems to know what this 'certain number' is, and with no one keeping track or reporting on the incidence of harm from vaccination in animals, who really knows the extent of the problem. All we do know is that it does happen !! Proving the frequency is, of course, another matter.

One thing we do know for sure, is that there are a large number of other problems directly and indirectly associated with vaccinations. Every veterinarian who has been in practice long enough has seen adverse reactions to vaccines. Unfortunately too many vets tend to believe that 'harmful effects' only occur within the first hour--the first 24 hours--the first seven days--the first 10 days -etc.(the answers seem to vary as much as the individual beliefs). Too often we hear "it couldn't possibly be related to the vaccination". This outright denial of even the possibility, springs from a life long belief in the present system and an unwillingness to 'rock the boat'. A closed mind however, never helped anyone.

Fortunately, there are a growing number of veterinarians that do recognize that all is not well with our present protocols. There are even a few recent dog publications that have carried articles concerning the subject (including the March/95 issue of the 'Gazette' article on the death of a Norwich Terrier from a vaccination). We are seeing a gradual awareness that the beliefs in the safety and effectiveness of 'routine' vaccinations are not only unfounded but downright misleading.

When 'coincidence' occurs often enough, even the allopathic community must eventually pay attention. This too is gradually starting to happen. For example, with cats it has now been officially recognized that vaccinating with too many vaccines in the same place all the time, can cause "fibrosarcoma"--a nasty cancer !

Moving on to the third belief-- Vaccinations were primarily responsible for the decline in infectious diseases--we need only look at some cold, hard, statistical data to see that this belief is grossly out of whack with the facts. As the belief arises from 'human' medicine we need to look at a few of the common diseases both before and after vaccination for them was introduced. Invariably we find that things like polio, measles, pertussis, etc. were steadily declining from the turn of the century (1900) onwards. Better hygiene and diet was the probable true reason.

For example the measles death rate decreased by more than 95% from 1915 to 1958 (the year the measles vaccine was introduced). Polio death rate shows a similar decline. As a matter of fact, statistics for five New England states reflect that the number of cases of polio increased after mass inoculations during 1954 and 1955.

In 1976, Dr. Salk, creator of the killed-virus vaccine for polio, testified that the live-virus vaccine had been 'the principal if not the sole cause' of all reported polio cases in the US since 1961 !!

More recently, the Center for Disease Control admitted that the live-virus vaccine is the dominant cause of polio in the US today. According to CDC figures, from 1980-89 every case of polio contracted within the US was caused by the vaccine.

Turning back to veterinary medicine, there is a considerable amount of evidence that points to the introduction of Modified Live Vaccine (MLV) some 20 years ago, as coinciding with the increase in allergic, immunologic and chronic debilitating diseases. There is no question that there are more skin problems, digestive problems, chronic ear infections, seizures, etc. in the past two decades, than ever before. Can this increase really only be a coincidence with the increased widespread use of MLV vaccines ?? This may not be the only culprit but common sense says they are probably a primary offender.

In the last few years there has been some serious research done that strongly indicates that some MLV vaccines induce immunosuppression. The purpose of vaccines is supposed to be to stimulate the immune system, not suppress it ! Worse yet, it is a well established fact that Modified Live Vaccines 'shed' thus creating the potential to infect other animals and cause the very disease that the vaccine was designed to protect against.

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Not enough bad news yet?? Still insist on vaccination?? Try this on for size. You better be concerned with the BRAND of vaccine used.

A tightly controlled study was done (1993/94) by the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to evaluate six commercially available 'multicomponent' vaccines for their ability to provide protective immunity against Parvovirus. The study involved 63 beagle puppies, six to seven weeks old.

The results showed that three of the vaccines failed to provide protective immunity, a fourth vaccine provided protection against death, but infection and clinical disease occurred. Only two of the six vaccines provided protection from both infection and disease.

These results say that the odds are 2 to 1 against you choosing an 'effective' vaccine in the first place!! For breeders that do their own vaccinations you may want to ask if these 'odds' are 'acceptable' to your immunization program.

Invariably the information sheets included with vaccines warn that the product is only to be used on "healthy" animals. This is really ironic. A truly healthy animal doesn't need vaccination. A truly healthy animal already has a strong natural immune system that can cope with disease in the real world. How else could the species have survived for all the centuries before man created vaccines?? But what is your definition of "healthy"?? (See Oct/94 Issue #1 of our newsletter).

When you have had a history of chronic problems or bring your dog or cat in for treatment of ear, skin, kidney, thyroid or whatever problems, you obviously do not have a healthy animal. Less obvious but just as important, when your animal is to be spayed or castrated (which means anesthesia) your animal should not be vaccinated at the same time. During any pregnancy--do not vaccinate!!

Remember that antibiotics and cortisone suppress the immune system. If your animal is being given these--do not vaccinate at these times!!

Remember that stress is a major immune suppressant. Show dogs in particular are subjected to many stressful conditions. Shipping off to handlers, kenneling, etc. --do not vaccinate during a high stress period!!

Hang in there gang--there's more to come!!



In the next issue we will deal with the 4th belief that vaccines are the only practical way to deal with epidemic and dangerous disease. Meantime--take care out there.